



Legal Beat

News and Notes on the D.C. Bar Legal Community

By Kathryn Alfisi and Thai Phi Le

Chief Judge Satterfield Appointed to Second Term

On July 26 the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission reappointed Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to a second four-year term beginning October 1.

"I am gratified that the Commission has shown its continued confidence in my skills and leadership as chief judge. This job is not an easy one, but it is incredibly rewarding to be able to improve the administration of justice and the services and programs we offer the residents of my hometown," said Judge Satterfield. "With the incredibly talented judiciary and court managers at the Superior Court, I am confident that we can continue to make improvements to a court that is already one of the best in the country."

Satterfield's first term focused on improving the court's operations, expanding its community outreach, and boosting public confidence in the court system. One of the court's more recent initiatives aims to reduce recidivism among juvenile offenders. Two juvenile drop-in centers, which offer youths productive alternatives to detention, are serving the District and a third one will open in early September.

In addition, the D.C. Superior Court implemented a jury management system to improve jury service and created a Housing Conditions Calendar to expedite tenant cases against their landlords. To evaluate the benefits of technology and the law and to improve courtroom innovation, the Superior Court also developed its first high-technology courtroom in 2010.

During the application process, the public was invited to offer comments about Judge Satterfield's performance during the past four years. The commission also hosted a forum on July 10, which gave D.C. residents a chance to ask the judge questions about his current efforts on behalf of the court as well as his plans for the court.

In considering Judge Satterfield's reappointment, the commission reviewed his statement of interest, past experience, performance as chief judge, qualifications, leadership abilities, administrative skills, and abilities to promote public confidence in the court.

Judge Satterfield was appointed to the D.C. Superior Court in 1992 by President George H. W. Bush. He has served in the Superior Court's Criminal, Civil, and Family Divisions as well as its Domestic Violence Unit.—*T.L.*